

Mountain View Green Garden Showcase

1620 Todd Street

Established in 2001, this garden is dedicated to California native plants. Inspired by an article in a local newspaper, the homeowners embarked on a path towards creating a palate for nearly year-round color as well as incorporating low-water-need plants. Without realizing it, they also discovered that California natives can go months with minimal to no maintenance. This garden is at its zenith in late winter and spring, but has plants that bloom in succession into the fall.



A Rich Array of Natives

The established front garden at 1620 Todd Street showcases a variety of California native shrubs and perennials, including a collection of sages. A coffeeberry shrub and a “Roger’s Red” wild grape, trained on the fence, are recent additions. Toyon, sugarbush, woolly blue curls, monkeyflowers and large and small buckwheats add to the richness of the garden. Save for two Chinese pistache trees, the garden is comprised exclusively of California native plants.

Irrigation

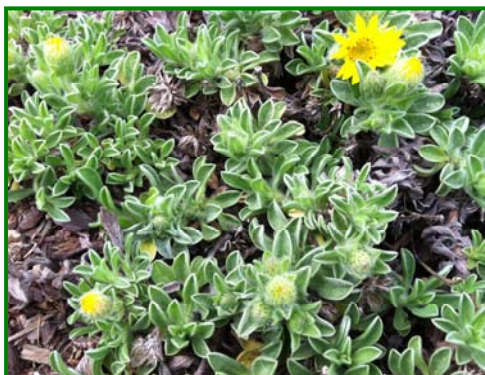
Drip irrigation allows for minimal water use, and many plants require no supplemental water. Established plants receive one half hour of drip watering twice a month. Newer plants that require additional water get occasional hand watering.

Garden Guests

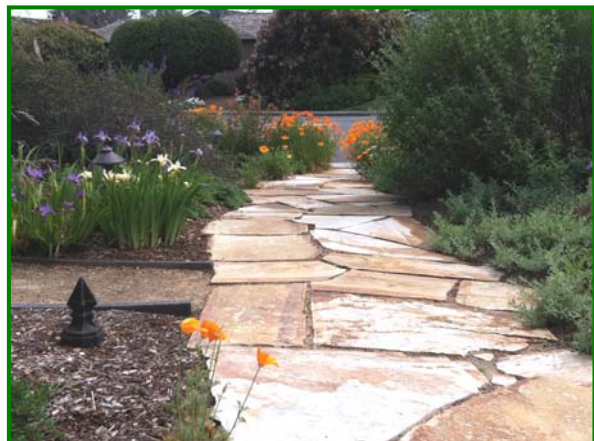
Hummingbirds, native bees, butterflies, mourning doves, and other birds like to visit this garden. During the 2011 going Native Garden Tour, this landscape was admired by 178 people.

Learning from a Dynamic Landscape

Over the years the owners have learned from gardening the habits of native plants. Early failures have led to experiments with new species. Plants that prefer more water have been replaced with more drought tolerant varieties. One challenge has been giving enough water to new plantings without increasing the drip irrigation to the whole space. This has meant some hand watering in the first year of new plants. Spring and fall dictate more attention to trimming and pruning, but total maintenance time is much, much less than what would go into weekly lawn mowing. Compliments from neighbors and visitors to the garden over the years have been a great source of encouragement.



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Plant list:

Botanic Name	Common Name
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Arctostaphylos edmundsii</i> 'Rosy Dawn'	Manzanita
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Coyote Brush
<i>Ceanothus cuneatus</i> var. <i>rigidus</i>	Monterey Ceanothus
<i>Ceanothus gloriosus</i> 'Anchor Bay'	Wild Lilac
<i>Epilobium</i>	Fire Weed
<i>Epilobium canum</i>	California Fuchsia
<i>Erigeron glaucus</i>	Seaside Daisy
<i>Eriogonum arborescens</i>	Buckwheat
<i>Eriogonum crocatum</i>	Saffron Buckwheat
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California Poppy
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon
<i>Heterotheca sessiliflora</i>	False Goldenaster
<i>Iris douglasiana</i>	Douglas Iris
<i>Lavatera assurgentiflora</i>	Malva Rosa
<i>Mimulus</i>	Monkeyflower
<i>Rhamnus californica</i>	California Coffeeberry
<i>Rhus ovata</i>	Sugarbush
<i>Ribes sanguineum glutinosum</i> 'Claremont'	Pink-flowering Currant
<i>Salvia apiana</i>	White Sage
<i>Salvia clevelandii</i>	Cleveland Sage
<i>Salvia sonomensis</i> 'Bee's Bliss'	Sage
<i>Salvia sonomensis</i> 'Dara's Choice'	Sage
<i>Salvia spathacea</i>	Hummingbird Sage
<i>Vitis californica</i> 'Walker Ridge'	California Wild Grape